Rev. S. May—Leeds Dublin, June 9, 1866

My dear Friend— It is ever so long since I heard from you. I had a letter today from Garrison Jr. & I enclosed to him that kind letter I had from you & I contributed quite a feast. I looked for very glad to know what is your opinion of the present state of affairs. Judging from the conduct of the President & the sentiment in which the colored people of that part are held in the South I cannot but augur very gloomy for the future. Every day at the South and the North is so different & contradictory that it is difficult to interpret & pronounce definitely upon present difficulties— and all chance of justice & fair play for the colored race seems to have extinguished by the President's partisan policy towards & in the proceedings of his countrymen. I see that the United Men at Bost & Richmond is much from the purpose & tenor of the existing state of political affairs & the temperament of the American mind. United men with different opinions even in case in which there is no apparent ground for difference. When there are deep & many elements here to be considered & decided on!— Is the Chairman in Congress as bad as ever? Is the Chairman in Congress as bad as ever? I have been from the Chairman here. Indeed I cannot wonder at his unmanly timidity & only sorry (with) to write to me— for we have been able to do so little for you— after all have talk the many professions. Nevertheless the fault that we were born on this side of the Atlantic.— Mr. Dwight Kinsley sent me his very interesting book on the United States during the War which I have read with very great pleasure. The account of the War with

perused Lowell's (in French) I have not yet seen — By the way I was glad to see Lowell took a Harvard stump speech. He has undertaken a task of great delicacy & difficulty & I doubt if his habits of procrastination & laziness & hearty democratic tendencies & newspaper style are the best suited to such a work. — Reade's prominent positions are acted & the Albion with fellow laborers is about to be compelled to take part with one or the other of the Reades. I think myself & Edmund Reade would have done the thing better. Write your opinion. I understand that E. A. is writing a memoir of his father. & I am always ready to see touching every thing of Frederick Douglass. Whether it will be done I cannot say. I am sure he must be greatly disappointed as to the sensation the book is likely to cause in the colored public in the Free States for he might have fairly expected that the interest & good will towards them would have been more thoroughly marked towards them than it has been. I have lately seen a letter in the Standard & about edited by Rufus Leighton an officer in the Federal army who was taken prisoner & executed by Rebels. It seems to be a remarkably intensely & circumstantial story. — How are your self & wife & your family all? I am sorry to say Mrs. Lady Webb & both remarkably well — but I feel that I am not to be so much as much afford I may Kind as I used to be. Indeed I have no reason to expect that I shall ever be as strong as I have been. Affectionate & tenderness that the Rebels Fishers Company should soon have more to do & keep me busy in the printing office. Our daughter is improving but just back to Paris — the Grimes (Canada) are to house. Write me kindly but the accompanying letter into an envelope & direct it to Richard Webb, Dunton, Nevada, Co. St Josephs. Missouri. I send Remember — Frank & Richard Webb

MS. B. 1.6 v. 15 p. 124